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PLAN INCREASED UTILIZATION OF RUMANIAN WATER POWER

Eng Gh. Ursu

Huge construction projects are to be undertaken in Rumania for the full utilization of water power in the production of electricity. The following are the principal installations planned or already under construction.

A dam nearly 100 meters high will be erected at Izvorul to collect the waters of the Bicaz River in a reservoir with a capacity of 1.2 billion cubic meters. A special tunnel will conduct the water through the mountains to the V. I. Lenin Hydroelectric Station. This plant, with a generating capacity of nearly 300,000 horsepower, will furnish 430 million kilowatt-hours annually to the towns and villages of Moldavia, as well as to new factories and reclaimed areas.

The construction of a dam and diversion tunnel at Moreni on the Ialomita River is already under way.

A series of hydroelectric plants will be built on the Raul-Mare River in order to supply the Jiul Valley coal industry with electricity. Concrete, stone, and earthen dams will be erected on the Moldova River, at Tunel on the Arges River, in the Saului Valley, at Vidra on the Lotru River, at Bolboci on the Ialomita River, on the Jiul River, on the Oltul, Somesul, Muresul, and on practically every river that flows through the Carpathians.

In 1955, the power available from our hydroelectric power stations will be 290,000 kilowatts, as compared with 50,000 kilowatts today. In 1960, this figure will rise to 835,000 kilowatts. Potential capacity of water power in Rumania is calculated to be 5,650,000 kilowatts.

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Because of the urgent needs of the present Five-Year Plan, we cannot limit ourselves to utilization of hydraulic energy. Therefore, a series of large thermal electric plants will be erected and later enlarged, particularly during the course of the first Five-Year Plan. They will use mostly low-grade fuels from local deposits of peat and lignite.

A huge thermal electric plant, with a power capacity of 150,000 kilowatts, will be built at Petrosani. Working at maximum capacity in 1955, it will produce 675 million kilowatt-hours. Another thermal electric plant at Valisoara will complete the energy system of the Jiu Valley.

Power stations at Filipestii-de-Padure and Doicesti, as well as the Dobresti plant and those cited above, will supply power to the Capital, the Prahova Valley, and oil-extracting plants.

The Ovidiu thermal electric plant, now under construction, will furnish electricity for the most complex projects of the Danube-Black Sea Canal, even during the first of the Five-Year Plan.

Besides the above power plants, many regional and local plants will be erected throughout the country wherever waterfalls and local fuel deposits can be utilized for the production of electric power. In all, the electric power of our plants will reach 1,700,000 kilowatts in 1955 and 2,600,000 kilowatts by the end of the Second Five-Year Plan.

Because of mass destruction of forests, and because of the division of land without regard to contours, the streams have become uncontrollable. They have destroyed 700,000 hectares of land, which are now a waste of desolate ravines. Another 2,300,000 hectares are deteriorating and will soon be lost to agriculture, unless preventive measures are taken.

A total of 2,700,000 hectares of land are subject to periodic drought; over half of our country receives under 600 millimeters of rainfall. Furthermore, 800,000 hectares of arable land are exposed to floods, while swamp lands and stagnant ponds cover an even greater area.

In accordance with the plan for water utilization, the people will take active steps toward reclaiming the millions of hectares of eroded terrain and toward protecting and improving other millions of hectares of arable land.

Our waterways, and particularly the Danube, will permit the economical irrigation of 1,200,000 hectares. Part of this can be irrigated by relying on gravity alone, but mechanical means (pumping, sprinkling, etc.) will be necessary for most of the area.

The reservoirs formed by the dams will play a decisive role in the irrigation of the other 1,500,000 hectares, which cannot be supplied by conventional means.

However, dams and reservoirs will play an especially important role. Functioning as water-volume regulators, they will prevent floods. The longitudinal dikes along the rivers will complete the system for protection of lands subject to floods, making the fertile soil cultivable once again.

During the Five-Year Plan, 1,200 billion lei will be invested in huge socialist construction projects, in new factories and plants, in well illuminated houses for workers, and in schools for children. By the end of these 5 years, 2,000 villages will be receiving electricity; vast regions of our country will have become working examples of the new life.

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